

THE STAR



Written by Linda Ragsdale
Illustrated by Mirko Fillippl



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Slumped on the end of her bed,
gazing out her window, she felt
her smile sag like a fallen moon.



Then she spied something in the sky.







It was a star! The first star of the night and
the first bright light in her day.



Benni closed her eyes and made a
great big wish on that star.






Before she drifted off to sleep, Benni took one last peek at the star.

It was sparkling.

It seemed brighter.



The background of the page is a soft-focus photograph of a night sky. A bright, out-of-focus star is visible in the upper right quadrant. A faint, multi-colored rainbow arches across the middle of the image, its colors blending into the dark blue and purple of the sky. The overall lighting is gentle and ethereal.

She sat up and looked again.

The star sparkled more.

It seemed even brighter.

And bigger.





Then it got much brighter
and much, much bigger.

And much, much, much closer...







Benni picked herself up
and looked at the star.

The star looked back.





Benni tilted her head. The star tilted its point.



Benni waved. The star waved back.



Benni jumped. The star jumped.



Benni smiled. The star smiled back.

"I'm a star!" Benni shouted.





Benni beamed. She glittered and flittered and danced around the room.

After a long dance and a sparkly hug, one star leapt back into the sky and the other climbed back into bed.



When Benni woke up the next morning, she felt amazing—beyond amazing!



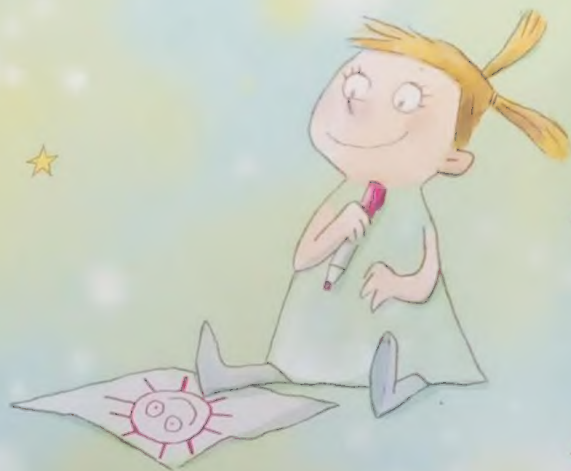
In fact, Benni knew from that day forward she would do what stars do best...





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to shine bright even after a dull day.



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